(b) what are the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to open some more BIS labratories; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) There are eight BIS own laboratories in the country, none of which is located in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) BIS managed laboratories are located in the following cities:

Sahibabad (Ghaziabad—UP)

Bombay (Maharashtra)

Calcutta (West Bengal)

Mohali (near Chandigarh—Punjab)

Madras (Tamil Nadu)

Patna (Bihar)

Bangalore (Karnataka)

Guwahati (Assam)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During the Eighth Five Year Plan, it is proposed to construct and equip a laboratory in Bhopal. Another laboratory is to be set up in Gandhi Nagar.

Consumer Cooperative Movement

3613. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to strengthen and stream line the consumer cooperative movement in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, it is proposed to strengthen the consumer cooperative movement during Eighth Five Year Plan and to expand its coverage in distributive trade. It is further proposed to give more emphasis on coverage of block and Tehsil/Taluka Head Quarters particularly in tribal and hilly areas. The details are furnished in the statement.

Statement

The draft approach paper to the Eighth Five Year Plan envisages strengthening of the Consumer Cooperative Movement in pursuance of the basic objective of providing essential items of mass consumption at reasonable prices and improvement in the consumer awareness through effective implementation of the Consumer Protection Act and other measures. It is also proposed to expand its coverage in distributive trade, by providing reorientation to the movement extending its scope to the Block/Tehsil Head Quarters especially in Tribal and Hilly Areas in order to make available goods of common consumption at reasonable prices. Eighth Plan proposes to cover 100% of the tribal and hilly blocks involving women in the working of Consumer Cooperatives. (In rural areas the total retail sales of consumer articles heandled by the cooperatives at all levels is expected to increase (@ 15% annual growth rate) to a level of Rs. 6000 crores and in urban areas to a level of Rs. 6400 crores (@ 19% annual growth rate) by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan. In order to achieve these policy objectives suitable strategy with the administrative and financial support at the State Govt. level is also expected. The NCCF of India Ltd. is providing the supply support to its affiliates enabling them to play an effective role in the distributive trade of consumer goods in the country. In the Eighth Five Year Plan a sum of Rs. 63.00 crores has been envisaged for development of urban consumer cooperatives. Rs. 75.00 crores for development of rural consumer cooperatives, Rs. 7 crores for development of Delhi Cooperative Stores (Super Bazar) Delhi, and Rs. 5.00 crores towards development of NCCF. The Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the